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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/147,813	08/31/1999	JEAN-LOUIS BRAVET	124707960VPC	2264

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EXAMINER

ZACHARIA, RAMSEY E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1773

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINER'S ANSWER

MAILED
MAR 03 2004
GROUP 1700

Pursuant to the Remand under 37 CFR 1.193(b)(1) by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on 23 January 2004, a supplemental Examiner's Answer is set forth below.

Regarding the concern that the examiner has not discussed the pertinent portion of Motter et al. that discuss and exemplify an all plastic structure, it was noted in the statement of rejection in the Answer that the reference clearly states that an all-plastic structure, as well as a glass material, may be used (page 3, lines 14-17). That is, Motter et al. is teaching the equivalence of glass and plastic structures. However, Motter et al. do not disclose a specific embodiment in which an all plastic structure is used in a motor vehicle window (as opposed to a glazing unit). Since Motter et al. do teach the functional equivalence of glass/plastic and all plastic structures, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to substitute an all plastic structure for a glass/plastic laminate in any of the disclosed applications including a motor vehicle window.

Regarding the Board's concern that the examiner had not provided a complete English translation of EP '417 and EP '348, English language translations have been obtained and are attached. The translations support the examiner's position as follows.

EP '417 is directed to a coating for plastic surfaces based on a polysiloxane that provide scratch resistance and abrasion stability (page 8, lines 4-19). The coating comprises two components, A and B, where A is an organometallic compound with a polymerizable ligand and B is a polymerizable silane (page 9, line 7-page 10, line 17). As a silane, component B comprises silicon-carbon bonds. Upon mixing, the organometallic compound undergoes

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hydrolysis and the ligand and silane polymerize resulting in a homogeneous coating (page 12, lines 1-10 and page 13, line 16-page 14, line 18). Thus, the resulting coating will comprise inorganic (from the silane) and organic (from the ligand) molecular chains (resulting from polymerization) in a homogeneous mixture (entangled). Further support that the coating of EP '417 reads on that of instant claims 44 and 63-65 can be found in the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 of the instant specification.

EP '348 teaches a scratch-proof coating applied over a polycarbonate layer (page 3, lines 5-10). The coating comprises the hydrolyzed and condensed product of organosilanes (i.e. a silicon-carbon bond containing molecule) mixed with colloidal silicon dioxide (page 15, lines 1-7). This is an organically modified ceramic that will have both organic chains (from the hydrolyzed and condensed organosilanes) and inorganic chains (from the colloidal silicon dioxide) mixed (i.e. entangled) together. Further support that the coating of EP '348 reads on that of instant claims 44 and 63-65 can be found in the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 of the instant specification.

Regarding the Board's inquiry as to whether an English language translation of French standard R43 is present, it has been determined that an English language copy is in the file.

Regarding the reference to Charrier on page 12 of the Answer, the Charrier reference was not included in the statement of the rejection because it is not being relied upon to reject the claims. Rather, Charrier is cited merely as an example that illustrates the examiner's contention

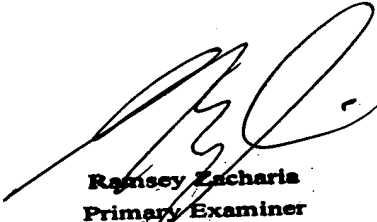
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that the scaling up or down of production processes in polymer processing is old and well known.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramsey Zacharia whose telephone number is (571) 272-1518. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Thibodeau, can be reached on (571) 272-1516. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ramsey Zacharia
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Tech Center 1700